



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement in Reply to Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Gomiashvili

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 10, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States would like to thank Deputy Minister Gomiashvili for traveling to Vienna in order to brief the Permanent Council on developments in Georgia and for updating us on Georgia's request for assistance to train its border guards. We welcome the clear statement of interest on the part of your government, Mr. Minister, in this assistance, and the clarity you have provided concerning the exact nature and extent of the help that would be most useful to your country.

We are gravely disappointed that the OSCE has not been able to respond positively to an urgent request for assistance by a participating State. We urge all participating States to come to the assistance of another participating State, and to actually work on the details of this assistance.

The United States strongly supports the Slovenian Chairmanship's proposal for a training assistance project for Georgian border guards.

We call on all delegations to engage seriously and expeditiously on this reasonable proposal and to provide support to the Chair to move it to a decision as quickly as possible.

In closing, we also wish to thank you, Mr. Minister, for your update on developments in South Ossetia. As we have stated on previous occasions, the United States supports OSCE involvement as an organization on behalf of this peace effort and all efforts toward a peaceful resolution of the South Ossetia conflict. The OSCE can play an important role in promoting, implementing and monitoring a resolution that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and at the same time offers all the rights, protections and guarantees for the South Ossetian population to ensure their security and prosperity as part of a unified Georgia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.